



February 2010

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FACT SHEET

ABOUT EMERGENCY WARNINGS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Local Emergency Public Notification, Alert and Warning Methods

NOAA Weather Radio:

- Severe-weather watches and warnings from the National Weather Service are broadcast on NOAA weather radios, widely available for purchase at retail stores. (NOAA stands for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.)
- A "watch" is issued when conditions are favorable for the development of hazardous weather, such as a tornado. A "warning" is issued when the hazardous weather is actually happening or is imminent.
- The radio broadcasts can also be used for hazardous materials warnings.
- An alarm will sound for hazards in your area. A radio should have a battery backup in case of power outages. Be sure your radio has fresh batteries.
- Every home, school, business and place where people gather should have a NOAA weather radio.
- Learn more at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrcwr.htm>

Outdoor Warning Sirens:

- Outdoor sirens sound when there is a tornado *warning* (when a tornado has been sighted or picked up by radar) by the National Weather Service for Franklin County.
- Sirens warn people outside to seek shelter and tune to local TV and radio stations or a NOAA weather radio for more information.
- Sirens can also transmit spoken messages for other types of emergencies, such as hazardous materials emergencies.
- Learn more at www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs

Emergency Alert System:

- The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national public warning system made up of TV and radio broadcasting stations, cable television systems, wireless cable systems, and other audio and video service providers.
- The system may be used by state and local authorities to deliver important alerts such as emergency weather information from the National Weather Service.
- Learn more at www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/eas.html

Telephone Emergency Notification System:

- The Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS) is used to call home and business phones and *registered* cell phones in a selected area with a recorded message.

(more)

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- TENS is used to warn of localized emergencies, such as flooding.
- You may register cell phone numbers at:
https://ucs.tfcci.com/cgi-bin/public/generic/franklin_county_signup.cgi

Outdoor Signs:

- Clear Channel electronic billboards and Ohio Department of Transportation electronic road signs may show warnings for tornados and hazardous materials spills.
- Tune to local TV and radio stations for more information.

What To Do When There Is an Emergency Warning:

- Remain calm.
- Listen. Follow officials' instructions.
- Follow your emergency plan.
- Remember your emergency supply kit.

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, a local government agency, coordinates county-wide emergency/disaster planning, education, warning, response, and recovery to minimize adverse impacts on area residents and property.

Emergency Public Information From:

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security
5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43230
Phone 614-794-0213, Fax 614-882-3209
Email fcem&hs@franklincountyohio.gov
On the Web at www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs/